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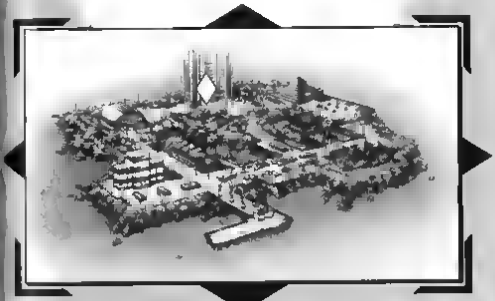
VS. GULPIN



RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

ANABEL!
ANABEL, WAIT!!

ATTACK!

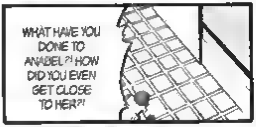
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ANABEL! SHE'S NOT HERSELF!!
NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT NOW, NOLAND!!
WE'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT THIS VIRTUAL TRAINER BEFORE WE CAN MAKE OUR WAY UP!!

RIGHT!!
SLAM
!!
BOOM
THIS FLOOR TOO?!

DON'T TELL ME...
"AIM FOR THE TOP FLOOR WHILE DEFEATING VIRTUAL TRAINERS AT EVERY LEVEL!"
"ONCE YOU REACH THE TOP YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE ON THE FRONTIER BRAIN ANABEL!"
THIS IS THE BATTLE SYSTEM OF THE TOWER!
...IT'S THE BATTLE TOWER CHALLENGE?!

IT IS AS YOU HAVE GUESSED! I, GULIE, HAVE TAKEN OVER THE BATTLE TOWER! IF YOU WANT TO REACH THE TOP, AS PER THE RULES OF THIS FACILITY...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT ALL 10 SETS OF SEVEN VIRTUAL TRAINERS!!
WHA, YOU!!

ONLY ANABEL AND SCOTT HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACTIVATE THE VIRTUAL TRAINERS IN THIS FACILITY...
WHAT?!
THAT MEANS ANABEL MUSTVE...?!
SCOTT!!
INDEED!!
FWAH HAH HAH HAH!
GULIE!!


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ANABEL?! HOW DID YOU EVEN GET CLOSE TO HER?!

FU FU FU... DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU LAST SAW ANABEL?

I NEED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE OWNER, SOON.
I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER!!

HELLO, SCOTT? ARE YOU THERE?!

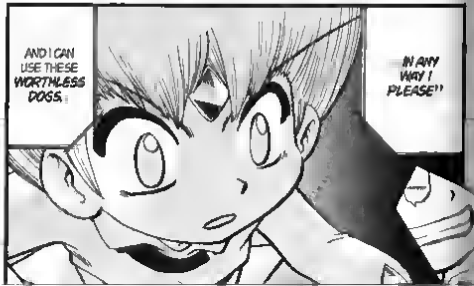
WHERE WAS I DURING THE DOME CHALLENGE?!
I WAS BUSY GETTING HOUNDED BY THE PRESS AND VISITORS!

WELL... I'M CURRENTLY BEING CHASED AROUND BY THE RENTAL POKEMON, THOUGH...
ANABEL? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER ALL DAY... WHOAAAA!!

FU FU FU, DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

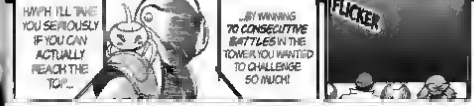
THE SCOTT YOU SAW BACK THEN...
...WAS A MERE ILLUSION CREATED BY AN ESPER-TYPE POKÉMON!!

YOU DESPICABLE VERMIN!!
FWAH HAH HAH!! THIS FEELS TOO GOOD!!
I MAY HAVE NO SUBORDINATES, BUT SO LONG AS THIS BATTLE TOWER IS UNDER MY CONTROL, I'LL HAVE ALL THE VIRTUAL TRAINERS AND RENTAL POKÉMON I WANT!


AND I CAN USE THESE WORTHLESS DOSS.
...IN ANY WAY I PLEASE!!

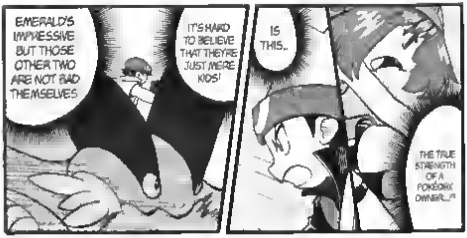
I WON'T...
...LET YOU...

I WON'T LET YOU...
...GET AWAY WITH THIS!!!


HMPH. I'LL TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY IF YOU CAN ACTUALLY REACH THE TOP...
...BY WINNING 70 CONSECUTIVE BATTLES IN THE TOWER IF YOU WANTED TO CHALLENGE SO MUCH!
FLICKER

DASH
EMERALD!
LOOKS LIKE...
...WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BATTLE OUR WAY UP TO THE 70TH FLOOR!

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR US TO BE SPLITTING UP NOW, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME ON OUR SIDE!
IF YOU SEE SOMEONE BATTLING ON ONE FLOOR, MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE! ONCE YOU'VE FINISH YOUR BATTLE, JUST KEEP GOING AND ADVANCING!!"
GOT IT!
8F
11F
20F
45F
62F

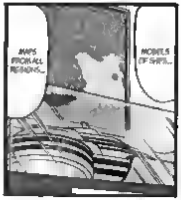

EMERALD'S IMPRESSIVE BUT THOSE OTHER TWO ARE NOT BAD THEMSELVES
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE JUST MERE KIDS!
IS THIS...
THE TRUE STRENGTH OF A POKÉDEX OWNER...?!

I HAVE TO ADVANCE QUICKLY AS WELL!
WAIT FOR ME ANABEL...!!

67F
68F
69F

70"
PHEW. WE'RE FINALLY AT THE 70TH FLOOR!
HUH? WE'RE THE ONLY ONES HERE? WHERE'S EMERALD AND NOLAND?"
I DON'T KNOW... I'M NOT SURE WHERE I OVERTOOK THEM, OR WHERE THEY OVERTOOK ME...

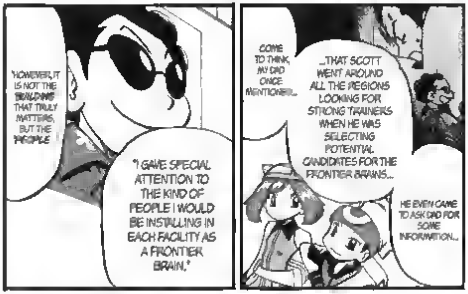
"
WHAT'S THIS ROOM SUPPOSED TO BE?
IT'S...NOT A BATTLE-FIELD, RIGHT?

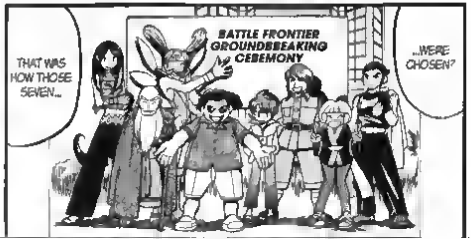

MAPS FROM ALL REGIONS...
MODELS OF SHIPS...

LOTS OF BOOKS, LITERATURE AND ANCIENT DOCUMENTS...
OH! I SEE!

THIS ROOM MUST BE AN INFORMATION ARCHIVE!

"BATTLE FRONTIER. FROM CONCEPTION TO COMPLETION"... A MEMOIR OF OWNER SCOTT!
BATTLE FRONTIER: FROM CONCEPTION TO COMPLETION
LET ME SEE... "I... THIS... WITH... AIM OF... POKÉMON BAT..."
"I BUILT THIS FACILITY WITH THE AIM OF MAKING IT THE FRONTIER OF POKÉMON BATTLES."


"HOWEVER, IT IS NOT THE BUILDING THAT TRULY MATTERS, BUT THE PEOPLE."
"I GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE KIND OF PEOPLE I WOULD BE INSTALLING IN EACH FACILITY AS A FRONTIER BRAIN."
COME TO THINK, MY DAD ONCE MENTIONED...
...THAT SCOTT WENT AROUND ALL THE REGIONS LOOKING FOR STRONG TRAINERS WHEN HE WAS SELECTING POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE FRONTIER BRAINS...
HE EVEN CAME TO ASK DAD FOR SOME INFORMATION...

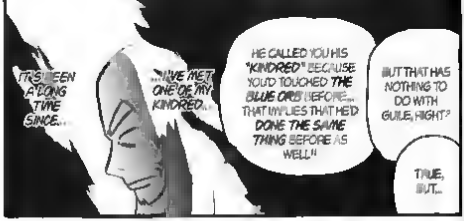

THAT WAS HOW THOSE SEVEN...
BATTLE FRONTIER GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY
...WERE CHOSEN?

YEAH. SO SCOTT MUST'VE COLLECTED A LOT OF INFORMATION ABOUT TRAINERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE FRONTIER BRAINS.
HMM...
AH!
IT'S A SECTION DEDICATED TO POKÉDEX OWNERS?!
I WONDER IF THEY'LL PUT US IN HERE ONE DAY TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT, EMERALD!
WHOA. THEY'VE EVEN GOT A STATUE ON TOP OF A BOOK...
SO... THESE GUYS ARE LIKE OUR SENIORS?
SLAAAAASH

IT'S COMING FROM THE NEXT ROOM!
DASH
SLAM
EMERALD!!

I KNEW IT!! HE GOT HERE BEFORE US!
AND HE'S ALREADY BATTLING AGAINST ANABEL!
BUT...
BAM
BAM
HIS POKEMON ARE IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT ANYMORE! SHE'S JUST TORTURING THEM!
LET'S BACK HIM UP, RUBY!!
DON'T COME OVER!!
THIS MATCH IS BETWEEN ANABEL AND ME! STAY OUTTA IT!

SMASH
GYAUH!!
ANABEL, STOP IT! IT'S TOO CRUEL!!
ANABEL ISN'T THE ONE DOING THIS, SAPPHIRE!
THE MAN WHO'S MANIPULATING ANABEL...
...HE'S THE VICIOUS ONE!
I KNOW THAT!
WHO THE HECK IS HE ANYWAY?!
HOW COULD HE DO SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELID?!
...
LIARE
THE LIGHTER OF MEMORY...!!
RUBY... YOU'RE STILL SUSPICIOUS ABOUT FRONTIER BRAIN SPENSER?
YEAH...


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE...
...I'VE MET ONE OF MY KINDRED...
HE CALLED YOU HIS "KINDRED" BECAUSE YOU'D TOUCHED THE BLUE ORB BEFORE... THAT MYLIES THAT HE'D DONE THE SAME THING BEFORE AS WELL!!
BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GUILE, RIGHT?
TRUE, BUT...

BAM!
EMERALD!!

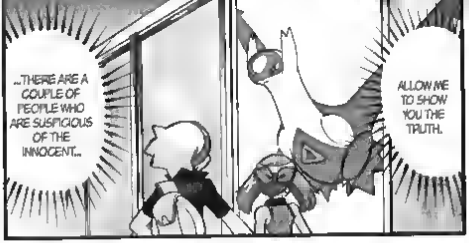
UGH...
DARN IT...
STAND UP

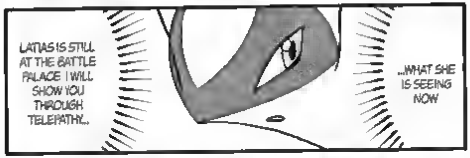
STAND UP, RALD.
SCOFF
YOU HAVEN'T LOST YET
LATION...
I WAS ASKED TO PASS THESE TO YOU.
TOSS
TAKE THEM.

SCEPTILE!
SUDO-WOODO
DUSCLOPS!
BUT THAT PAINS...
OH, AND THERE'S ONE MORE THING FROM THE BATTLE PALACE...
THE SPIRIT SHRINE!

THESE THREE POKÉMON THAT YOU TRUSTED.
THEY HAVE CONQUERED THE BATTLE PALACE!
YOU CAN STILL DO BATTLE WITH THOSE THREE ON HAND NOW, RIGHT?
YOU BET!
BOOM

I CAN STILL BATTLE.. SO COME ON!!
WHOOSH
AHHH!!
THUD
PATHETIC FOOL!
CLANK
HER BODY ISN'T ABLE TO WITHSTAND MY MANIPULATION. WHAT A WORTHLESS PIECE OF TRASH!
GUILE!!
STEP
THE BUT INSIDE THAT ARMOR..
IS IT REALLY SPENSER INSIDE?
I SEE THAT..


...THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE SUSPICIOUS OF THE INNOCENT...
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE TRUTH.


LATIAS IS STILL AT THE BATTLE PALACE. I WILL SHOW YOU THROUGH TELEPATHY..
...WHAT SHE IS SEEING NOW

THERE..
SPENSER!!
FWOOSH
I'VE KEPT YOU ALL IN THE DARK ABOUT THIS BECAUSE EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT PILLS ME WITH SUCH ANGUISH, BUT..
...IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO REVEAL EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

IT HAPPENED SOME TIME AGO...
ON THAT DAY, I HAD VISITED TWO OF MY FRIENDS AT MT. PYRE...
WHERE THE RED AND BLUE ORBS WHICH MUST NEVER BE TOUCHED RESIDED
WHEN MY TWO FRIENDS WERE AWAY...
...I WAS CAPTIVATED BY THE BEAUTY OF THOSE ORBS, AND INADVERTENTLY...
...I REACHED OUT AND TOUCHED THE BLUE ORB!
AND THEN...!

THIS TREMENDOUS POWER OVERWHELMED ME, SPREADING RIGHT THROUGH MY ARM, FROM MY FINGERS RIGHT UP TO MY SHOULDERS!
I BECAME FEARFUL, AND RELEGATED THE ORB UNDERGROUND.
BUT...
AFTER THAT NIGHT, I KEPT HEARING MURMURS AND FEELING RIPPLES FROM WITHIN MY HEART...
I COULD NOT SLEEP... AND EVERY TIME I CLOSED MY EYES, I WOULD DREAM ABOUT A MASSIVE SEA MONSTER...
...AND MY EYES BEGAN TO GLOW WITH A FULL AND EERIE LIGHT...
A SEA MONSTER?
THAT'S RIGHT...
I LATER FOUND OUT...
...THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY THE LEGENDARY POKÉMON OF HOENN...
...KYOGRE!

I BECAME LIKE THAT BECAUSE I HAD TOUCHED THE ORB THAT MUST NEVER BE TOUCHED, AND I DEEPLY REGRETTED IT...
SINCE THEN, I'VE DEVOTED MYSELF TO TOUGHENING MY SPIRIT HAVING COME TO KNOW OF THE WEAKNESS THAT LIES IN MY HEART. IT WAS HOW I CAME TO BE THE FRONTIER BRAIN OF "SPIRIT"

I HAD ONCE STEPPED INTO THE DARKNESS, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY FOR A MERE MOMENT...
...THAT IS WHY I AM ABLE TO TELL IF SOMEONE HAS HAD CONTACT WITH THE ORBS BEFORE BY THAT GLOW IN THEIR EYES...
THAT GIRL IN BLUE JUST NOW, AS WELL AS...

YOU'RE NOT SAYING THAT...!!
ALTHOUGH I WAS QUITE UNCERTAIN AT ARTISAN CAVE I AM *POSITIVE* OF THIS NOW
THAT SAME DULL GLOW I SEE DEEP WITHIN THOSE EYES!!

GUILE HIDEOUT...
...YOU'RE NOT JUST A PERSON WHO HAS TOUCHED THE BLUE ORB BEFORE... YOU'VE ALLOWED ITS DARK POWERS TO SEEP INTO EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING!!

HMPH!
I HAD EXPECTED THIS FROM A FRONTIER BRAIN.

INDEED...! I ONCE HELD THIS TREASURE WITHIN THIS BODY OF MINE!
HAH HAH!
I BECAME ONE WITH IT AND IT GRANTED ME *IMMEASURABLE POWER!!* NOTHING WAS MORE EXHILARATING THAN THAT POWER RUSH IT GAVE ME!!
CRE-SH

SINCE YOU'RE ALL SO CURIOUS TO KNOW...
KUH HAH HAH HAH!
THIS.

...IS WHO I AM...!!
TO BE CONTINUED...